

Trillium parviflorum Soukup

small-flowered trillium

Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G2G3S2S3

General Description: Erect perennial up to 12 inches tall; 3 large mottled leaves at top of stem; single flower resting directly atop leaves; 3 green lanceolate sepals; 3 small, narrow white petals about twice as long as the sepals. The fruit has a somewhat glossy surface and is dark maroon to black in color.

Identification Tips: This species is easily recognized in the field. The narrow-petaled flower rests atop the large mottled leaves. The flower has a pleasant clove-like fragrance. *T. ovatum* occurs in the same range as *T. parviflorum* but the flowers are sessile on *T. parviflorum* and not on *T. ovatum*.

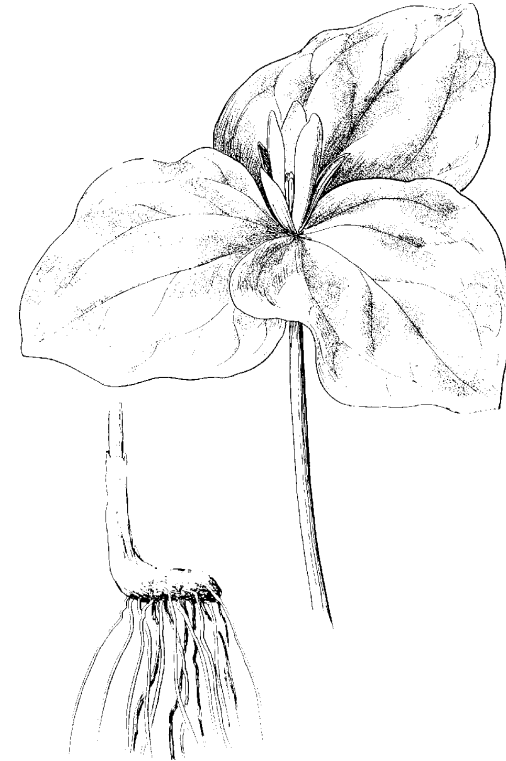
Phenology: Flowering occurs generally between late-March and mid-May. The shiny skinned dark maroon fruit (almost black), broadly ovoid in shape and prominently displayed by wide spread sepals, may be found July through August.

Range: The taxon is a regional endemic, occurring from Pierce and Thurston counties southward into Lewis and Clark counties, Washington and into the Willamette Valley, Oregon. It is an uncommon species of very local distribution with few, widely scattered populations. Occurs in the Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington, and Puget Trough physiographic provinces.

Habitat: The species occurs in association with moist areas dominated by hardwoods, most commonly Oregon ash, but sometimes red alder or even Garry oak. The range of the species is within the Western Hemlock Zone of Franklin and Dyrness (1973). Other associates include vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), spring beauty (*Montia parviflora*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), false lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*), little buttercup (*Ranunculus uncinatus*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), and slough sedge (*Carex opnupta*). The substrate is generally a moist alluvial soil often covered with humus. Elevation: 25 to 700 feet.

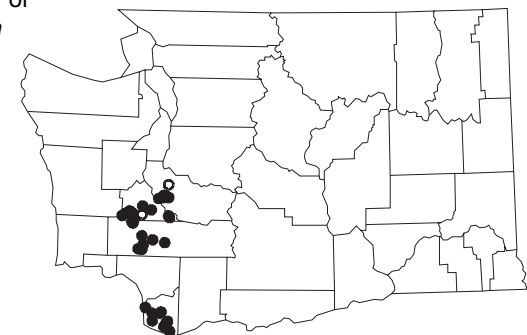
Trillium parviflorum

small-flowered trillium



©1969 University of Washington Press. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish.

Known distribution of
Trillium parviflorum
in Washington



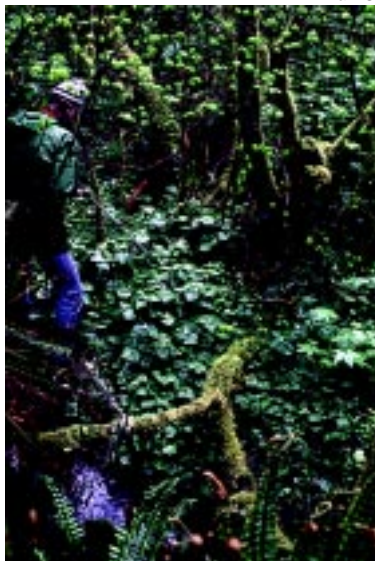
● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Trillium parviflorum

small-flowered trillium



Mark Sheehan



Mark Sheehan



Mark Sheehan

Trillium parviflorum

small-flowered trillium

Ecology: The species requires a moist, shady environment. Many sites are within a riparian zone, but near the upland edge of that zone. These sites may undergo periodic winter flooding. Historically, such flooding would have been the major disturbance to the species' habitat.

State Status Comments: Primary factors responsible for the species' status include its small range, isolated nature of its habitat, and the vulnerability of the habitat to change.

Inventory Needs: Inventory efforts to-date have been incomplete. A systematic inventory of its entire range in WA is needed.

Threats and Management Concerns: Hydrologic change and development within or adjacent to the species' habitat are the primary threats. Some sites have also had grazing pressure. Maintenance of the hardwood overstory is probably one key to retaining populations of this species.

Comments: This species will key to *Trillium chloropetalum* in Hitchcock and Cronquist 1973.

References:

Soukup, V.G. 1980. A new *Trillium* (Liliaceae) from the north-western United States. *Brittonia* 32(3): 330-333.